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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q64096

Yoshihiro NAKAJIMA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/941,744

Group Art Unit: 2826

Confirmation No.: 7388

Examiner: Pershelle L. GREENE

Filed: August 30, 2001

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

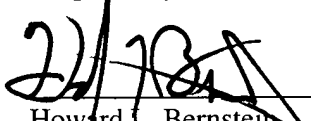
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: January 15, 2003



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 10-4166, published January 6, 1998.
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 5-166871, published July 2, 1993.
3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 3-151648, published June 27, 1991.
4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2-121356, published May 9, 1990.
5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2001-229028, published December 7, 2001.
6. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-156708, May 26, 2000 (corresponding to Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. No. 2001-229028 above).

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Information Disclosure Statement

7. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 62-36550, published March 4, 1987.
8. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 4-15248, published February 6, 1992.
9. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 6-85133, published March 25, 1994.
10. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 7-326698, published December 12, 1995.
11. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 11-150286, published June 2, 1999.
12. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2000-183249, published June 30, 2000.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

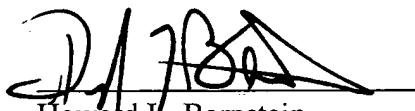
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated December 17, 2002 with an English translation of the pertinent portion thereof which cites such documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

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Information Disclosure Statement

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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